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THE
KAPPA ALPHA THETA.

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VOL. IX.

OCTOBER, 1894.

NO. I.

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE FRATERNITY
SYSTEM.

By C. L. Vancleve.*

The American College Fraternity is based upon the gregarious instinct of man, and finds in congenial companionship a sufficient reason for existence. It is true that from time to time in its history spasmodic efforts toward other ideals than social have been made, but these efforts have met with deserved failure.

Whatever other reasons may be ambitiously set forth in their rituals, the life of practically all Greek-letter societies sustains the assertion that these organizations are social purely. From this point of view then the present paper will look in its effort to present to foreign delegates a concise account of this peculiar feature of American college life, and perhaps to show in clearer form to fraternity men themselves the institution of which they form a part.

*Read by the author before the International Congress of University Students at Chicago, 1893.

It is interesting to note, in passing, that various attempts have been made to transplant into foreign soil the American college fraternity, but the results in nearly every instance have been fruitless. The notable exceptions of Zeta Psi at McGill University and at the University of Toronto prove the rule that Greek-letter societies are indigenous to American soil.

It may be granted that, to a clear understanding of the system, some account of its history should be given. The first American fraternity was the famous Phi Beta Kappa, founded at the College of William and Mary, in December, 1776, by a coterie of enthusiastic young collegians, who the "more thoroughly to enjoy the society of congenial associates, to promote refined good fellowship," organized themselves into the society avowing "friendship as its basis, and benevolence and literature as its pillars." There is no good reason to believe that these ardent southern youths of revolutionary times had in thus organizing themselves any of the highflown ideals or ambitious plans for the moral redemption of the world which have been attributed to them by writers on this theme whose imaginations appear to have worked more vigorously than their judgment. Distinguished men, notably C. F. Adams, in his Phi Beta Kappa oration at Harvard, 1873, Dr. E. E. Hale, in *The Atlantic*, July, 1879, to say nothing of many smaller fry in light of the recently discovered archives of the society, have made themselves ridiculous by attributing lofty governmental schemes, large philosophical plans, to those verdant youths of a century since, whose poor spelling and loose English forcibly remind the reader of their minute-books, of the callow fledglings of our own time.

After the establishment of a few similar gatherings of congenial spirits—called chapters—in other institutions, Phi Beta Kappa at William and Mary, died in 1781, to be revived in 1850 and then again to lapse, until nothing now remains of the famous organization there but a memory.

Phi Beta Kappa, however, in modified form, from the date of its establishment among the great New England colleges, has not ceased its growth until within its ranks may be found the most famous authors, statesmen and thinkers of our nation. Of this modified form let me speak a word and then dismiss Phi Beta Kappa entirely from the discussion, for it has not existed as a fraternity, in the sense in which we now understand the word, since the good old days of 1776-81.

The literary features which were largely an incident in the early organization soon became in the northern branches of the society the all-pervading sentiment, and it was not long until Phi Beta Kappa everywhere became nothing more than the outward symbol of high scholastic attainments, and men chosen into its ranks were and are taken without regard to the question of companionship—the underlying principle of the fraternity system of to-day.

For purpose of comparison, the American college fraternity may be classified as general, local and professional. By general fraternities I mean those organizations which are represented in more than one institution; by local, such as are confined to one college, and these again may be subdivided into societies chosen from a single class, as the senior societies at Yale, and those chosen from all four classes; by professional, such as are organized in law schools and other special post-collegiate institutions.

From the establishment of Kappa Alpha, in 1824, the real beginning of the American college fraternity may with propriety be dated, and since that time it has grown and flourished to such a degree that in its various branches there have been enrolled more than 120,000 of America's brightest and most cultivated minds.

The organization of the different fraternities is substantially the same, consisting in general of a body of laws and rules for the government of membership, embodied in constitutions, by-laws and standing rules, and of a ritual for the induction of candidates into the chapter.

As I understand it, my duty is not to enter into the discussion of the question as to whether the American college fraternity ought or ought not to exist, but briefly to characterize it in its essential features. Bearing this in mind, let me indicate how a company of young collegians may become fraternity men. In case no organization exists in the college suited to the desire of the coterie, a petition to the coveted fraternity is made, setting forth the desires of the applicants, indicating their worth and that of the institution in which they are enrolled as students. In the event of the petition being favorably received, a charter is granted, which is an authorization under seal to establish the chapter, and deputed persons initiate the petitioners, by means of the ritual, into the coveted organization. There are various ways in which chapters may be established, but the above may be considered as the typical method. It ought perhaps to be stated that before a new chapter of any fraternity may be established the consent of all existing chapters must first be obtained. This rule, however, is not at all absolute, although it prevails among the old fraternities. When once organized a chapter recruits its membership by the selection of suitable candidates from the ranks of those who are not enrolled in any similar organization. The recruits are called "barbarians" or "oudens" for the obvious reason that they are not Greeks.

The rivalry between chapters of various societies for desirable men gives rise in most American colleges to a peculiar custom called "rushing" or "spiking." Rival societies desiring the same man vie with each other in paying him social attentions, and the candidate's life becomes a burden until he ends his popularity by identifying himself with one of the several companies of generous entertainers. While this custom prevails in general, there are interesting exceptions to note of the manner in which a few local societies add to their ranks. At Yale, for example, where membership in the two senior societies, "Skull and Bones," and

"Scroll and Key," is very highly prized, on a day previously well known the juniors and interested spectators assemble in the quadrangle before the principal college building and witness this strange procedure.

Two men, members of the two societies, come in absolute silence into the quadrangle and mingle with the crowd, each seeking his man. Their solemn visages are not moved by the facetious remarks made by the spectators in order to break their solemnity. When each has found his man he claps him on the shoulder and follows him at once to his room. Arrived there, after the usual question and reply, "Are we alone?" "We are," the senior informs the junior that he has been elected to "Bones" or "Keys." If he accepts, the member at once returns to his hall to inform his society of the result. After them in order come two other men into the crowd and take with them their men, and so on until each member of the society has taken his man and fifteen are made up; in each case membership in the chapter being limited to that number. All this is conducted on the part of senior society men with unbroken silence, while the crowd in the quadrangle cheers or expresses quiet dissatisfaction as the men elected happen to be considered worthy or unworthy. The initiations usually occur a few days afterwards.

Admission to membership in American college fraternities is always upon the invitation of the chapter and universally requires, I believe, an unanimous vote of the chapter extending the invitation. This is a marked contrast to the societies operating among professional and business men outside college walls.

Initiation ceremonies, accompanying the admission of a candidate into one of these societies, vary to a considerable degree, and yet all possess the same general characteristics. Nearly, if not quite all Greek-letter societies make a practice of dividing their initiation into two parts; one burlesque, in which the wildest play

is given to the spirit of fun inherent in every young American's breast, the other serious, refined, noble and inspiring.

From a somewhat intimate acquaintance with the rituals of the leading fraternities of the country, I violate no confidences in stating that the initiation proper consists in imposing upon the candidate an obligation, either affirmed or under oath, to preserve the strictest secrecy relative to all the affairs of his fraternity, except to those whom he is taught to call brother. He has then explained to him the meaning of the signs, grips and unwritten portions of the ritual, the whole concluding with a brief lecture explaining and emphasizing the beauties of pure friendship and the helpfulness of congenial companionship.

In some fraternities the above rather meager outline is filled up with dramatic episodes, illustrating and emphasizing the principles taught. In some places to such a degree has this elaboration gone that buildings specially adapted to the purpose are required, together with paraphernalia sufficient to equip a theatre. In at least one such case, initiation ceremonies occupy half a day. I might occupy an hour in describing the burlesque part of the initiation and yet not exhaust the types of which I have myself been a witness. One instance alone must suffice. At Harvard, for example, candidates are compelled to perform the most menial services for their tormentors, are often obliged to parade the streets in outlandish costumes, and a young Cambridge matron was horrified recently on being accosted in her own house by a neophyte who was compelled to ask her if she wished him to wash her baby.

The nomenclature which has given the distinctive title, Greek-letter societies, to these student organizations, dates back to the time of the Phi Beta Kappa, and is presumably based upon the fact that these organizations have their foundation and life in education, and that education as understood by the civilized world to-day is a Greek conception. However, it may be remarked that

beyond the name, motto, titles of the officers, a few brief sentences of decidedly un-Attic Greek constitute the entire claim of these fraternities to recognition as Hellenists.

During the anti-Masonic agitation of the second quarter of the present century, Greek-letter societies had a troubled and checkered career, based upon the insane and wholly preposterous notion that the secrecy which was supposed to hedge about the membership was a menace to the freedom and liberty of the American people. Speaking of one of these organizations, a famous writer of this period says: "Though it has no bloody code as I know of, with savage penalties, and consequently none of those crimes which blacken the institution of Free-masonry; yet as a secret society it is as susceptible of being converted to unholy and dangerous purposes, and may, if continued unmolested and unexposed, in process of time, become an instrument of great hazard to the community and issue in the overthrow of all our civil and religious institutions." Any sensible man, not wholly blinded by prejudice, if he knows anything about college fraternities, knows that their secrecy is purely nominal, and that the real secrecy that prevails among the members of any chapter is only such as obtains in any cultivated household or company of congenial friends the world over.

I may not weary you with undertaking to portray college fraternity life in any of its multiform phases, further than to emphasize the opening statement of this paper, that our Greek-letter societies are social organizations, and that these vary in essential characteristics as men vary in similar organizations outside the pale of college life. One dare not open the subject far without letting in a flood-tide of incidents illustrative of American college life. It is germane to this brief paper, however, to advert to the fact that there are fraternities so-called, whose influence is as baneful upon young American character as the eye of the fabled basilisk was to its beholder. That such organizations bring discredit

upon the system, the firmest advocate of fraternities dare not deny, but the indiscriminate condemnation of the system, because of these excrescences, has largely made it possible for them to exist. It need not be argued here, if you wish to make a rogue respectable, you will compel honest people to make common cause with him.

If faculties hostile to bad fraternities would make sympathetic co-operation with the good organizations their rule in driving out the bad, they would find the system as beneficial as they now believe it malevolent.

That the American college fraternity has become a permanent factor in American student life no thoughtful man can for one moment question. In recent years there has grown up in all the organizations a strong desire to make sure of the future by the most powerful of all arguments, material equipment. With bewildering rapidity chapter-houses are being built all over the land, some of which are used purely as lodge-rooms, but the great majority of which are intended as places of abode. Many of these represent an expenditure of more than \$20,000 each. The readiness of students and alumni to thus invest their money indicates a profound conviction that Greek-letter societies have come to stay. There are no reliable data at hand upon which to base an estimate as to the number of these structures, but judging from my reading as the editor of a Greek-letter society journal, I should say that there are nearly two hundred such edifices now owned and occupied, and another hundred under contemplation and prospective erection. With such a financial argument as these houses attest, he would be a false prophet who would predict the dissolution of the American college fraternity system.

It may be remarked that the building of chapter-houses is a long step toward the solution of the vexed question of how to establish an *esprit de corps* in each fraternity and in all fraternities. In the same way that a landed proprietor takes rank above a mere tenant,

so will extensive ownership in valuable college properties give rank and influence to Greek-letter societies. It is now no uncommon thing for a man to prize his fraternity, measured simply by his own chapter standard. The Greek-letter fraternity, if it stands for anything, stands for culture and the broad humanities in opposition to provincialism and bigotry. A man who cherishes no fond regard for his fraternity as a whole has failed of the highest lesson which he is supposed to have been taught therein. The man who has not learned in his chapter life to love mankind is recalcitrant, and while I do not believe in any fanciful Pan-hellenism any more than I believe in Mormonism as the rule for the family, nevertheless I believe the true fraternity man has a higher regard for all fraternity men than he who has not tasted of the delights of intimate companionship found nowhere else in such perfect form as in the chapters of American Greek-letter societies.

At the present time the influence of the class societies, which find perhaps their highest exponent at Yale and Harvard, is very powerful; but it is an interesting fact to note that in the great institutions which have come into existence since the war those fraternities which take their members from all of the college classes dominate the policy and spirit of the college. I would not venture to predict that Harvard and Yale will in the future lose their proud pre-eminence, but I do assert that Cornell, University of Michigan, University of Chicago, Leland Stanford and institutions of a like grade will people the college world of to-morrow with such numbers of true fraternal spirits that the proud members of "Skull and Bones" or "Hasty Pudding" will be lost in the company.

I do not believe that any class companionship or mutually helpful association can be formed among men who have not been closely identified with each other until the last year of their college course, nor do I think that a class fraternity at any stage of a young man's career in college can be of much service to him. Friendships can

not be lightly made and ought not to be lightly severed. A man's allegiance to his fraternity ought not even to end with his graduation from college ; in fact the highest and broadest good comes to the fraternity man in his after associations, if he has profited by the teachings of his college fraternity life.

The custom prevailing in many colleges of enrolling large numbers in their chapters is, I believe, a grievous mistake. How thirty to fifty men can associate together constantly on terms of passable cordiality, much less of intimate fellowship, passes my comprehension. The conditions of college life vary so that it may be unwise to fix a limit, but I will venture to say that when a chapter has passed the line of twenty the danger is very great of separation in cliques, and of nullifying the very object for which fraternities are supposed to exist.

I can think of no more fitting close to this essay than a quotation from a scholarly article written a number of years ago to the Delta Kappa Epsilon *Quarterly* by the Honorable Charlton T. Lewis, in which he says :

"The ideal college society must not only be enduring, it must be broad, and must extend its benefits to many institutions. Experience has shown that a select association of students, in a single college, cannot meet the wants of those whom our Greek-letter societies seek to serve. It may be of the highest value, and may become a permanent institution in which membership is an honor to each name on its roll, and whose existence is an honor to the noblest university. But such a history belongs only to small and exclusives bodies of men, selected with extreme care from comparatively mature classes after years of life together within the institution. The social needs of the freshman are not satisfied by the prospect that, perhaps after three years of earnest efforts and acceptable conduct, he may be admitted to that inner circle of choice spirits. His eye first seeks a nearer threshold and a wider door. The new convert dreams of a distant heaven, and hopes one day to reach it, but his present want is a shrine for present worship. The Greek-letter society aims to be select, indeed, but also to be democratic, catholic, liberal. Not limiting its privileges to a small and mystic number, to twelve, fifteen or thirty,

by a law so rigid that if Pericles or Plato, Shakespere, Goethe, Sheridan or Gladstone were the thirteenth or sixteenth candidate, he must stand outside, but welcoming every one who answers its standard of manly merit, it attains a wholesome breadth in its relations to the whole community of students. But this liberality is not always consistent with successful selection. It will sometimes happen that, in a particular college, the material for an ideal society can not in certain classes be found, or can not be brought into the most wisely conducted fraternity. If the chapter stood alone, it must degenerate and perhaps deservedly die. But the fraternity at large exercises an influence, rarely by direct interference, but always by its honorable prestige, and now more and more by the agencies which the increasing community of interest among the chapters is producing, to sustain and recruit the weak member. The oldest and strongest chapters of our best societies are perhaps those which would most freely acknowledge the great service which at times has been rendered them by such influences as these; and each of the great fraternities owes no small part of its present general prosperity to the generous aid and moral support which the whole body has at times afforded, however silently, to its weaker parts.



THE ETHICAL INFLUENCE OF FRATERNITIES.

By Miss Gertrude B. Blackwelder.*

A great deal is being said of late in regard to the shortcomings of our colleges and universities; indeed the whole American educational system is now upon the rack of criticism, just and unjust. To its door are laid all the evils, social, economic and political, of our complex civilization.

It is claimed by the educational pessimist that the ethical side of our natures has not been specially developed during the two generations of popular education; that political corruption is increasing, that society does not tend toward greater equality of condition, but the reverse, that nations have not learned to avoid war, or at least the necessity for expensive armaments, that instead of fidelity and mutual respect between employer and employee being the result of the schooling of the masses, that dishonesty, disloyalty and general discontent have developed; in short, that present scholastic methods do not lay the necessary moral foundation for the proper understanding and treatment of the vital problems of our age.

While this may be an exaggerated view of the subject, still we must admit that our college training, at least that of the older graduates, did not help us much in detecting sophistry, in finding the difference between the real and the apparent, between show and truth. We learned logic in the old medieval way, in no wise differing from the teachings of the fourteenth century, except that we did not have to sit upon the floor while reciting the old mnemonic lines: "Barbara, celarent, Dari, Ferioque," etc. Ethics, the science of duty and of morals, is so closely allied to logic, the

*Read before the Congress of Women's Fraternities in Chicago, July 20, 1893.

science of thought, that the latter should be modified so that it may fit the conditions of modern life.

Now as fraternities are supposed to supplement in certain directions, mostly social, the work of the institutions under whose shadows they exist, can they not take upon themselves the labor of demanding certain reforms in the curriculum. Let them ask that the next generation of college youth be taught those things which will form a bulwark against bigotry, sophistry and immorality.

The old literary society, where we used to solve, in flights of burning eloquence, the questions of the age, has, I am told, passed away, and we must look for the present college organizations to assume a somewhat broader role than that of fostering the social side of our nature. A great work is awaiting them in the form of organized effort toward the evolution and guidance of the moral side of our being. This is a work peculiarly belonging to women's fraternities. Women are already the moral guides of the young ; not only from circumstance, being the mothers and the teachers, but also because of their peculiar ability to discern right from wrong, of their instinctive shrinking from the immoral in life. Buckle truly says that the influence of women "has softened the violence of men ; it has improved their manners ; it has lessened their cruelty."

Can we not see the mission of our societies in this thought? Little as I know of the actual doings of women's fraternities to-day, not having attended a meeting for twenty years, I am encouraged to believe that they have in some measure outgrown their primitive purpose, laudable though it is, of building up social intercourse and college friendships, and the less admirable habit of arranging plans for capturing class honors. It is gratifying to learn that nobler aims are now in vogue. It is just what we might expect after twenty years of pioneer work, of experiments and mistakes, of successes and failures. If the alumni have not had a hand in

this change, it is greatly to their discredit. For no undergraduate can judge of his duty, of his best course of action as he can a score of years later. The gathered experience of our alumni chapters should begin to bear fruit, although we all know how loth the young are to profit by the advice their elders are so ready to give.

A white-haired saint of a man was once reproving his grandson for his wild conduct. "But, Grandpa," said the youth, "did you not do these very things when you were young?" "Yes, my boy, but I have lived to see the folly of my ways." "Ah," quickly replied the other, "and I expect to live to see the folly of mine."

And so it is with our dear young girls who see in fraternity life only a chance for displaying pretty dresses, for attending gay parties and afternoon teas, and (shall I say it?) for indulging in idle gossip. I have talked with some of these fascinating creatures with a view of suggesting something more worth living for than these things at a time when the treasures of the past, the discoveries of the present are lying at their feet. And I fear they thought me an antiquated, cross-grained old woman who could no longer enter into the spirit of the young, when in fact I was trying to show them a newer and better fashion, knowing as I did that the time would surely come when they would suffer the bitterness of regret for their "lost, lost hours."

We have heard that one aim of the fraternity system is to "foster the social side of our nature." I do not believe that the social side of the average girl's nature needs any fostering. In many cases it needs a little curbing. Can we not, each one of us, call to mind some brilliant girl who literally threw to the winds her advantages for literary and scientific work because of her love for social pleasures? To me there seems but one watchword for the college student: work—work.

The young woman who enters college should be in the very prime of youthful strength and vigor. Childhood with its weak-

ness and disease is past ; the cares of bread-winning have not yet descended like a cloud upon her life. It is the time for gaining learning and wisdom, for building up character strong and true.

Our sororities are made up of picked women. The brightest and best, not, I hope, the wealthiest and most gay, are gathered together in bonds of close fellowship. What a weapon for good or evil is in your hands. What a power you may exert over the young men of your college. To discountenance that which is doubtful or dangerous in conduct, to keep yourselves bound to the highest ideals in manners, in dress, in all habits of life, is plainly your duty. Here lies the chance for ethical influence. The example of one student, who is faithful, pure, strong to resist temptation, but at the same time hearty and winsome, counts for much, but multiply that by thirty or forty and you have a force capable of deciding the character of a college.

A few nights ago there was a discussion in one of these halls on co-education. Efforts had been made to secure speakers for both sides, but when the hour came no one was willing to take the negative. Evidently public sentiment is in favor of educating men and women together. Co-instruction is also growing in favor, and the next step should be the formation of college societies where both sexes are admitted. If you must have secrets, and I believe they do no harm but rather tend to make us self-reliant, to teach us to hold our tongues, why not let men and women have the same? Ruskin tells us that the "mission" and the "rights" of woman can never be separate from the mission and rights of man, that they are not creatures of independent right and irreconcilable claim.

Woman's place is beside man, not above or below him, and I cannot imagine any relation in life where man is not the better for having the presence of women, or women the stronger and braver for having the men to look after. The fraternity began long before women had stepped up into the paths of higher education.

Their presence there is now recognized by the noblest of all Greek letter societies, though not a secret one, Phi Beta Kappa. I may be a very Cassandra of a prophetess, whom no one believes, but I do look forward to the time when in our great co-educational institutions, a union will be made between a fraternity and a sorority ; and that from this union will flow that moral support, that " ethical influence " which cannot exist under present conditions.



GOLDEN ROD.

Bright flowers, glowing in the sun
The graceful swaying sprays of golden rod,
Incarnate brightness of the autumn days
All glorified as with the smile of God,—

The nation's emblem, bright and beautiful,
Growing by every road-side and in every wood,
A gracious gift to rich and poor alike
As in our country's noblest, highest good.

COLLEGE LIFE AT VASSAR.

You ask me to write you on social life at Vassar, yet who but an American Boccaccio could do justice to a four years' existence on this Vassar Olympus.

Life here has always seemed to me as ideal as the Decameron days of those congenial Florentines, who betook themselves to heights overlooking the city, and spent the time with the wits and poets and story tellers of their number.

In its seclusion, and the natural beauty of its surroundings, and in the historic and romantic environment, Vassar is not unlike that favored spot to which Boccaccio invited his friends.

Two miles away from the quaint Dutch city of Poughkeepsie, in a park of two hundred acres, not far from the banks of the Hudson, in sight of the Catskills, there was embodied in stone some thirty years ago a daring experiment in the social world—the first college for the higher education of girls. To the school girl who had passed her seventeen years in a small New England village, it seemed a paradise, and to this day she thinks of it as a kind of Mt. Olympus. The Jove of her Homer and Virgil were not more benign and god-like than the far-removed figure of the gracious and scholarly president. And Minerva herself was not half as majestic as the famous astronomer Maria Mitchell—who even then had been crowned among the celestials.

Oh, yes, there were gods and goddesses in those days, and the New England girl was very glad to have been introduced into this paradise.

In this new world, she met at the out-set girls from every section of the country, besides an occasional English girl, a Swiss, a Japanese, a Canadian—all assembled together for a single purpose.

Her rivals in the class-room were Westerners and Southerners. Her table companions were from California and Texas, Michigan and Maine. Her parlor-mates were New Yorkers or Bostonians or Chicagoans. One of her class-mates was the daughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, another was the niece of Helen Hunt, a third came from Concord with a letter of introduction from Ralph Waldo Emerson. Among her friends in other classes were the daughter of Bayard Taylor and the daughter of Minister Stevens (lately prominent in Hawaiian affairs). The latter came to Vassar from diplomatic life in Brazil. She left it to go to the Swedish court.

Nothing could have been more stimulating and delightful than this new social life which seemed to the New England girl as broad as the country itself and to include the wise and the good from all the States.

It is the class relationship which more than any other controls inside the college, and which more than any other out-lives the college days. Even after years of separation, it needs but glimpse and a touch to revive the old friendships.

But it is the college literary society which lays low the class rivalries and brings together from all the classes those of like tastes and talents.

The Philolethean Society of Vassar is divided into three chapters, and each chapter assumes an individual character according to the genius of its members. Alpha may be altogether musical, Beta dramatic, Delta (now Omega) literary.

Each chapter holds its meetings every Friday evening. Twice a year each chapter gives a play on the Vassar stage.

The two great events of the dramatic life, however, are the Philolethean plays. Twice a year the Society gives a play in Philolethean Hall. The actors are those who have shown special talent in the chapter plays.

Not Georgie Cayvan, nor Modjeska, nor Ellen Terry, can experience keener delight in the applause and appreciation of her

audience than the stars of a Philoethean play on the Vassar stage. Her class, her chapter, her friends are proud to claim her. The dramatic critic *writes her up* in the *Vassar Miscellany*, and thenceforth she is ranked as a star of the first magnitude in the Vassar firmament.

The formal social events of the year are commencement week, Founder's Day and Philoethean Day. On these three occasions the college gives a grand party, it dresses up in its very best attire, and entertains in the most lavish and brilliant style.

Philoethean Day comes early in December. The Freshman makes her debut into the social world of the college, and for the first time sees Alma Mater in gorgeous evening dress.

The big, bare corridors, by means of couches and tables and chairs, pictures and portieres and palms, have been transformed into lovely promenades. The students' parlors are like alcoves, opening out of the corridors, waiting for the guests to arrive. And guests arrive on every train. The avenues from Poughkeepsie to the college are alive with carriages. The grounds and buildings are gay with joyous arrivals. In the evening, music and oratory, and banquet and dancing, brilliant dresses, and smiling peoples, combine to captivate the senses and delight the mind.

Three times a year Alma Mater invites the world to visit her daughters, and like any other mother who has "dispensed a noble hospitality" she has reason to feel satisfied with her social success.

There are formal class receptions for which Vassar found no precedent at Yale or Harvard or elsewhere. The Freshman is still in her "salad days" when an invitation comes to her for the Sophomore reception. It is the aim of the Sophomores to overwhelm the Freshmen with their kindness and charms. It is the Vassar system of hazing. Freshman falls easily into the snare and adores Sophomore gallantry.

The time comes too soon when the once gallant Sophomore must say farewell to Alma Mater. As the time approaches the

Seniors are adored. Now is the Junior's opportunity. She draws it out in one whole blissful day's excursion—a sail down the Hudson to West Point, or to Irving's home, or to Cornwall and Crow Nest, or a day in the Catskills at Lake Mohonk. Every year something new, always a secret, always a surprise, and always the jolliest day in the year.

Besides the classes and the societies there are the clubs. Some, like the Shakespeare and Dickens clubs, continue year after year, the members being elected by ballot. Others are transitory and change with the classes. Each class has its glee club. There are tennis clubs, base ball clubs, walking clubs and whist clubs. The walking clubs introduce its members to every lovely spot within a radius of five or more miles from the college. Saturday evenings are given to whist. Glee club demands one evening a week for rehearsal. With lectures and concerts and recitations and study and eating and drinking and sleeping, not one precious second of time is lost in the Vassar girl's week.

But it is after all the *comeraderie* of the life in a girls' college which is more delightful than class or society or club.

One may forget the society or the club, but one never forgets the friends of one's own parlor. They are chosen as carefully as a man chooses a wife. The result is an ideal home life. Together they make their heaven. They furnish it with beautiful things, and here they study and talk and write and live together.

The dinner table is another meeting ground,—I do not say dining room, for that would include the three meals, and at breakfast and lunch one simply eats and leaves as soon as possible. But dinner at five o'clock is a formal meal. You must sit through the three courses. The study day is done. Every one comes fresh and gay and there is a burst of conversation on every subject connected with college life, a little gossip, stories, class work, future studies, personal attacks, banter, impromptu debates. It is

the jolliest hour of the day and it is followed by another—the dancing and recreation period. There are delicious waltzes for the waltzers every evening in the students' parlor, or one makes one's duty calls, or, best of all, one entertains her lovers and friends, just as the society girl receives her own, and is not at home to mere callers. Another phase of the life to which I have not referred is that peculiar relationship which corresponds to flirtations in the outside world.

A lower classman has fallen much in love with some student above her. She sends flowers and fruit and presents to the adored—at first perhaps anonymously. She is feeling her way into the favor and heart of her adorable. Later she may become more bold if the adorable responds and then it possesses all the charms of a flirtation and takes many of its phases. Frequently it has a sky-rocket existence and ending. Sometimes it develops into a friendship.

In either case such flirtations are greatly enjoyed by the on-lookers and furnish a continual supply for college gossip.

The one link which binds the college to the outside world is the Young Woman's Christian Association of the college. This is the avenue through which passes the philanthropic and charitable life of the students. They work for missions, hospitals, kindergartens, libraries, boys' clubs, the salvation army and the college settlement. By this means is developed a broad spirit of generosity and altruism, in connection with the intellectual and social nature of the students. And it is oftentimes a starting point of what is destined to be a wise and invaluable addition in the cause of missions and philanthropy.

The social life at Vassar is, of course, wholly unlike that of a college for young men, or that of a coeducational college. Indeed it is unlike that of Smith or Wellesley or Bryn Mawr, where the students are housed in several buildings.

To live in a great caravanserie like Vassar, may have its objections, but it certainly favors the social life of the students and makes four years of Vassar life a delightful experience and a sweet memory.

M. P. R.

IN MEMORIAM

MARCELLA HOWLAND

OF

KAPPA CHAPTER.

"Death, thou art infinite—'t is Life is little."

January 17th, 1869.

September 9th, 1894.

EDITORIALS.

COMMUNICATIONS to the January number of the Journal should be sent in the first of December.

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The above notice should be framed and hung in a prominent place in every chapter hall.

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The late appearance and non-appearance of the chapter letters have again caused a delay in the publication of the Journal.

Many of the chapters are excusable this time, however, for the reason that most Eastern colleges do not open until the last of September and there has been little fraternity business done as yet.

Would it not be a good plan, for this reason, to appoint a new date for the publication of the Autumn number of the Journal—a date late enough to give all the chapters time to get started and well at work before the regular time for sending in the required letters?

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We are sure that the communication from Vassar will be very interesting to all Thetas.

The fascinating pen picture given by M. P. R. convinces us that Vassar would be just the place for a large and enthusiastic chapter of our own beloved fraternity.

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We are glad to welcome Omega's letter to our pages and we wish to say that the fault is Uncle Sam's—not Omega's—that she was not represented in the last Journal. She sent her letter promptly on time (Omega is always prompt) but the mails did not get it here early enough for publication.

We are indebted to Theta Delta Chi for the opportunity of publishing the excellent papers on The American College Fraternity System and The Ethical Influence of Fraternities.

These papers were read before the Congress of Fraternities at the World's Fair, and the Editor has tried, in vain, up to the present time, to obtain them for publication. Now, though they are a year old, they are just as good and true, and we are more than glad to give them to our readers.

§§§§§§§§§§§§§§§§

The chapters will please heed the invitation given by Iota to suggest some appropriate way in which to celebrate our silver wedding.

Would it not be a good idea to agree upon some evening which should be set apart for the celebration of this anniversary by all the chapters, making such exercises as may seem appropriate, uniform throughout the fraternity?

A poem should be written, a song composed, and toasts appropriate to the occasion should be drunk in our own * *

§§§§§§§§§§§§§§§§

We rejoice anew as we hear of one more chapter added to the list of happy possessors of houses of their own.

Chapter life is never complete without a chapter house. However much girls may do to make their hall or rooms attractive, the warm home feeling is not there. A rented house is better than not any, but a real chapter house—be it ever so humble—is the only perfect haven of bliss to the college girl.

§§§§§§§§§§§§§§§§

To those chapters that are looking around for literary work to occupy their time during the long winter evenings, we wish to recommend two topics for consideration.

1. The Study and Use of Parliamentary Rules.
2. The Study of English.

A knowledge of parliamentary rules and usages is of practical value to every woman of larger growth, and the chapter meet-

ing furnishes ample opportunity for attaining and developing this knowledge. The weekly business meeting should be conducted in strict parliamentary orders—the president exercising all the dignity and power attached to her position with her subordinates maintaining order in harmonious proportion.

As to the second topic, it is a deplorable fact, now generally recognized, that college students are more deficient in their knowledge of English than in any other branch of learning. How inappropriate it seems that college girls and boys should spend four years learning the idioms of foreign languages—and remain in blissful ignorance of the correct use of their mother tongue!

Can you speak, write and spell the English language? If you can, then you should, at once, start out missionaries to other colleges.

If you cannot, then go to work honestly and humbly, and burn the midnight oil until you can.



Follow the college graduate to her new home when fortune has crowned her as a bride. Let us hope it is a home well supplied with the comforts of life, and provided with a purse long enough to furnish the wages of a fairly competent cook and housemaid.

Having shown the cook where meats and vegetables and kitchen articles are to be kept, and explained the routine of work to the housemaid, Mrs. College Graduate often fancies she has "discharged her duty" to her household, and turns with alacrity to the school habit of glancing into a book, or sitting as one of a committee on "vital public questions."

In the meantime cook gets breakfast, lunch and dinner according to the formula taught her by her mother or by some former mistress, or, perchance, the wit and wisdom of her own brain mixed with picked-up knowledge. She fills the refrigerator with milk, butter, meat and various cooked dishes, all uncovered, because she has learned that ice "keeps things from spoiling, ma'am."

She is utterly ignorant of the fact that milk and butter are greedy absorbents, and that the French chef's best friend, the

onion, may be as dangerous a neighbor as a tenement house, because of its birthright as a scavenger.

She holds the kettle under the spigot and fills in the desired quantity, when she should first let the water run cold, in order to remove the evil that finds a home in water that stands in the lead pipe next to the spigot if not run off frequently.

When mixing her dough she finds it more convenient to draw poisonous water from the hot-water faucet than to take pure water from the teakettle.

She prepares her potatoes for boiling and leaves them in any handy dish, possibly tin, for half an hour, because she is not quite ready to "start dinner." They grow black and lose quality. She does not know that covering them with cold water will keep them white and crisp.

Lettuce and onions, and radishes and green corn are to her only "green stuff," and are left wherever they happen to be thrown by the grocer, until the sun or the heat of the kitchen wilts them and their spirit departs.

She knows not the importance of immediately putting them in cool, safe storage, and placing in cold water the lettuce and radishes required for the next meal. The radishes are much more delicate and crisp if they remain in cold water an hour before lunch, and can be served in glasses holding a little ice water.

Cook washes the glorious cucumber, slices it and sends immediately to the table. The family are tempted; they eat and they suffer, all because she has never been told that slicing the cucumber into ice-cold salt and water and letting it remain an hour would remove all danger and give us one of the choicest relishes of the day.

She fills her teakettle immediately after breakfast, lets it boil, then pushes it to the back of the range that she may have hot water handy, which is perfectly right, except to a certain point, possibly until the time for coffee and tea making arrives; then she in haste seizes the teapot, throws in the required amount of tea, pulls forward the kettle and pours on the hot water and sets the pot on the range, wherever there is a convenient spot, to "keep it warm."

One mistress, seeing her cook do this, exclaimed, "Why, Mary, that water is not boiling!"

"But it has boiled, ma'am," replied the girl.

"When?" inquired the mistress.

"Just after breakfast, when I filled the kettle," said cook.

"And has been simmering ever since!" said the mistress,

who happened to know that water twice boiled is not fit for either tea or coffee, and that tea or coffee put into a cold pot loses half its fine flavor.

She immediately applied her knowledge, and that cook was taught to scald her pots before putting in the tea and to pour upon it fresh boiled water while in the very act of boiling.

In her schooldays Mrs. College Graduate was a banner pupil in the chemistry class. In the new departure of her life it never occurs to her that her kitchen is the largest field in all the world for the beneficial application of her chemical and hygienic knowledge. She sits at her bountifully supplied table, munching composedly compounds that would terrify her if developed in the laboratory. . . . She knows right well that sewer gas is poisonous, yet the bathroom and washstand pipes are left entirely to the care of the maid, who "is supposed to know her work."

She takes her daily walk in skirts that do not clear the ground, because they are fashionable, you know, never once shaking the dust of her feet from the lovely folds before stepping upon her thick, pile carpets and costly rugs. Malaria and diphtheria invade the house, and Mrs. College Graduate "cannot understand it." She supposed that was a "particularly healthy neighborhood" else she "never would have consented to live there." Mrs. College Graduate is very critical concerning tone and line and values in pictures and architecture, but she never dreams of applying her eye for beauty or order or harmonious adjustment to her home or her table, save in a theoretical way.

The above article taken from *The Household* is a base libel against the common sense of "Mrs. College Graduate," and we call on her to defend herself. The article sounds quite spiteful and dyspeptic. We do hope the author has not been disappointed personally in "Mrs. College Graduate."

2525252525252525

Phi calls attention to a misprint in the July number. The article entitled, "A Plea for Sincerity," was by W. W. of Phi, instead of Chi. The mistake arose from the fact that the writer made capital Ps and capital Cs exactly alike.

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Miss M. P. Skinner, our editor-in-chief, was married on Oct. 17th to Mr. Edson M. Peck of Bristol, Conn. Please direct all future communications for Mrs. Peck to 42 Summer St., Bristol, Conn.

CHAPTER CORRESPONDENCE.

Alpha District.

LAMBDA.

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT.

Lambda has had just one chapter meeting since the opening of the college year, but that was such a jolly good one that we entirely forgot the separation of the summer. We hardly felt the loss of the '94 girls, for five of them were with us. We are rejoicing over the pledging of one of our Seniors. She is not only one of the brightest students in her class, but she has by her sweet ways quite won our hearts.

We have decided to do no rushing this fall, but to wait until we are thoroughly acquainted with the new girls before making a decision.

Lambda felt justly proud of the honors won by some of her members last Commencement.

We like the new girls very much and feel sure that among their number we shall find some worthy to wear the black and gold.

With best wishes to all Thetas in a prosperous year,

LAMBDA.

ALPHA BETA.

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE, Aug. 31, 1894.

Dear Thetas :

Alpha Beta is again ready to take her place in College, and for her the coming year appears most bright. Each of us in our

own way has spent the most delightful summer of our lives, for the last is always the best. We have kept in touch and sympathy with each other during the three months of our vacation by means of a circulating letter. When one receives the thick envelope and has spread around her the messages and news of each dear sister, it seems as though they were actually present and we were once again having a Theta talk.

We start out upon our coming College year strong in body and mind, determined to be an honor to our fraternity. We now number nine, being minus our five '94's, and Emily T. Brooke '96, whom, though she has been but a short time among us, we will greatly miss.

The Commencement exercises brought back to our midst many of our dear sisters, several of whom we had not seen since a year before ; Agnes Walker, ex '96, was especially welcome.

Caroline Sargent and Jane Shaw, two of our members, had the good fortune of spending the entire summer together. Caroline has now gone to her home in the West, and through Psi hopes to keep up her interest in Theta. Alpha Beta heartily congratulates Psi in having her so near.

Several of our alumnæ expect to teach during this winter and have been very fortunate in securing desirable positions.

Since I have been writing you, dear sisters, a little friend has brought me a bunch of nine four-leaf clovers. I trust this signifies good luck for Theta, and wishing you success during the coming year, as ever,

Yours in the bond,

ALPHA BETA.

BETA DISTRICT.

ALPHA GAMMA.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Sept. 5, 1894.

Dear Theta Sisters :

As the vacation draws to a close and College claims again fill our thoughts, we feel the bonds of Kappa Alpha Theta drawing us closely together again. All the Alpha Gamma girls have returned from their summer trips excepting Katherine Kiser, who will be with us on registration day, we trust. The summer has been very pleasant and profitable to our girls, most of whom have spent several weeks away from the city, and have returned to the place of their Alma Mater, filled with ambition and plans for the success of the Chapter next year.

We have had no Fraternity meetings this summer, as we had last summer and the year before, owing to the fact that so many of the girls have been away. Yet we feel assured that the meetings during the coming fall will not lack in interest and strength of purpose on account of the suspension of regular Chapter meetings for a few months, but that the girls will renew the ties of active life with even more than usual interest and zeal. We have not been entirely separated, however, for the absent girls have been very considerate in keeping those at home informed concerning their whereabouts and occupations. We had a very delightful re-union at Josephine Barnaby's, who entertained the Alpha Gamma girls in honor of some friends, early in the vacation. Several of the girls were away, which was the only thing to mar the pleasure of the evening. Alpha Gamma will commence work this fall with her number diminished by four members, our two graduates, and two of our '97 girls, Helen Patterson and Lois Dann. Esther Stafford will be with us again, to help us with her sweet influence and faithful presence. Dessa High, the only one of our

active members who lives out of Columbus, will return in a few days.

We shall have two Fraternities in the field with us during the fall campaign, for besides the Kappas we have among us a Chapter of the Pi Beta Phi Fraternity, so that the contest will be all the more interesting, on account of the opposition we shall have to contend with. We feel that our chapter is gaining in strength and wisdom each year, and that our two years' experience will count for much in the work of the coming year.

Alpha Gamma is stronger by four members this fall than we were last fall. Our vice-president has called a meeting for the 11th of this month—the day before registration day, when we shall compare plans and make arrangements for the fall campaign.

Although our two '94 girls will not be with us in College life, we still shall hope to have them with us at our meetings during the year. Indeed we feel that our prospects are very bright for the coming year, and we look forward to serving Kappa Alpha Theta with much pleasure.

With many good wishes for the welfare and prosperity of the Sister Chapters.

ALPHA GAMMA.

ETA.

ANN ARBOR, Mich.

Dear Thetas :

Since our last letter we have to chronicle only one short month of college and two long ones of vacation. June was of course largely taken up with examinations followed by Commencement, and Eta's fraternity life during that month consisted largely in making the necessary arrangements for an initiation and in holding animated discussions over the merits and defects of nearly every house in Ann Arbor available for society purposes. We finally secured one which we think will answer very nicely. Six

or seven of the girls will make their home there and we anticipate much fun from our first attempt at house-keeping. Our latch key will always be out to any Thetas who may be wandering that way and we hope that none will ever pass us by.

On the evening of June twenty-first the glories and mysteries of Kappa Alpha Theta were unveiled to Maude Phillips and Minnie Rhines. It was our third initiation during the year and we congratulated ourselves upon its being a decided advance both in beauty and in fun over the previous ones. Alta Miller of Tau was in Ann Arbor at the time but greatly to our disappointment was unable to be present.

Gertrude Hull and Jessie Harris represented Kappa Alpha Theta at the Commencement of '94, and besides these graduates we have lost three other girls who were with us last year. Alice Wadsworth however one of our charter members who was not with us in 1893-4, may return to the fold in October. We are in hopes that some of our absent members may cross the paths of other Thetas this year as they are going into strange localities to teach. Gertrude Hull is to be at Henry, Ill., Jessie Harris near St. Louis, Mo., Mabel Gale at Ishpeming, Mich., Fannie Gale at Lacon, Ill.

We are nearing the Theta silver wedding. Ought we not to have some record of this red letter year in the life of the fraternity? Let us have suggestions on this point from the various chapters while there is yet time for discussion. How would it be for all of the chapters to exchange uniform group pictures of their members, perhaps no larger than an ordinary cabinet photo? The collection I am sure would be treasured in every chapter house showing as it would all of the active members of the fraternity in its silver year. If this subject was broached in the July Journal we pray to be forgiven for its repetition, as we have anxiously waited in vain for that member to materialize.

Yours in the Theta Sisterhood.

ETA.

KAPPA.
—

LAWRENCE, Kansas. Sept. 1894.

Dear Theta Sisters :

Another summer has come and gone and once more Kappa sends greetings to her Theta sisters who have again assembled at their various fields of duty. Our girls have returned with renewed zeal and determinations which the summer vacation has tended only to increase. And although we shall miss the kind words of sympathy and encouragement from two of our graduates of last spring and the love and companionship of four of our girls who cannot be with us this year, we cherish the hope that they will again return to us next fall.

One of our absent number, Jeannette Sayre, whom we pledged last spring, will study in Chicago this winter. On the seventeenth of August, Jeannette was admitted into our mystic circle at the beautiful suburban home of Rilla Vanhoesen, where we were secure from all intrusions.

The majority of our girls living either directly in the city or conveniently near in the suburbs are able to get together frequently during the summer months, and on the eleventh of August enjoyed a *Theta* picnic. Early in the morning we started for a small lake about six miles north west of town and arrived there somewhat later than we had expected, and slightly bruised, owing to a "break down" which seems to be a usual occurrence at a picnic. After enjoying ourselves as only a crowd of Theta sisters can, we returned, in the evening, feeling that we were bound together more closely than ever, if possible, by our day's companionship.

At the University the new buildings are being rapidly pushed to completion. The Chancellor is occupying his new residence. The Library building, which was described in a previous letter, is now completed and ready for this year's work ; and the new Electrical Engineering building, which is to be of white stone and a very

useful addition as well as an ornament to the University Campus, is well under way.

This contribution must needs be more brief than we would like, as very little worthy of note has transpired since our last letter, but we hope to give you a more newsy communication next time. With best wishes to all for a prosperous year.

KAPPA.

GAMMA DISTRICT.

PHI.

LELAND STANFORD JR. UNIVERSITY, }
PALO ALTO, CAL. }

Were the greeting from Phi this month to be vocal, I'm afraid 'twould be almost a silent one—the deep silence of great gladness. It is so beautiful to be back again; and with the prospect of such a good year ahead. One can write sometimes when the voice fails. One's fingers are perhaps more perfectly under the will's control than the tongue. It may be, that it is another meaning of the Bible verse about the unruly member. I'm glad Phi can use her ink bottle, for she wants to tell you about it.

Stanford is glad, altogether, for the bright ending of the rather foggy summer in her history. We Thetas, who love to moralize as a class, want to learn a lesson from it all. It is so easy to start things that grow until one wouldn't recognize the story. I wonder who began the rumors about Stanford any way? Oh, well! It don't matter, now that it is all over. It's easy to forgive, when the truth is known.

Phi especially is rejoiced over her new house, to pass on to strictly Theta matters. We are on the campus this year, —number one, Alvarado Row. And the house matches with its comfort the beauty of the name. A house couldn't have been

planned better for sorority purposes. All the girls have such pretty rooms—college girls' rooms; shelves of books that indicate the student-vein; and low window seats heaped with pillows—proving "a woman's a woman for a' that."

A few of the girls were back early, and had the house all cleaned and ready for the later comers; showing their fraternity spirit in the truest way, we think—the work-a-day things that win little honor from the dull-eyed world. But the thirteen other Phis give them lots of love,—I would say rather, we see how worthy they are of our love; I like that better. It's so much sweeter to find an old friend true, than to suspect or perhaps even to discover beauty in a new one; the difference perhaps between peaceful old age, that knows of the greatest things through the heart-growth; and feverish youth, only able to guess at what it hopes may be.

Tut! Phi is certainly moralizing this time. She'd better cork up that ink bottle she was so glad to get out. She doesn't put away her heart, however. She sends loving greetings to all the Thetas in the land, and wishes their year as bright as her own promises to be.

PHI.

OMEGA.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,

BERKELEY, August 28, 1894.

We are all together once more and are just settling down to hard work. The rushing season is well on its way. This year Gamma Phi Beta is also in the field, but our prospects are bright. The class of '98 is larger than any preceding one, and seems to possess a goodly number of girls attractive to Thetas. We had a special initiation on the morning of August 25, and now take pride in announcing the two new Thetas—Amanda Krenz of '97 and Marian Whipple of '98.

We have also another important bit of news. On May 17, the day after Commencement, we witnessed our second wedding,

which gave us much pleasure. Anita Day Symmes of '94 was married to Mr. Anson Blake, '91, *A. K. E.* Fortunately for us they have made Berkeley their home, so we have one of our '94 sisters still with us.

Our meetings have been very frequent lately, as we have had many matters to discuss and determine, and we are realizing how much we love our Kappa Alpha Theta. We have the prospect before us of moving into a new Chapter House in a few days' time, of obtaining a cook, and also of securing our chaperon. Having all this to do, and rushing besides, you may imagine how busy we all are.

With kindest wishes,

OMEGA.



PERSONALS.

ALPHA BETA.

Annie and Helen Hillborn spent the summer at Chautauqua attending a course of lectures.

Bertha Broomell and her sister Mary will teach this winter at Abington Friends' school, Jenkintown, Pa.

Margaret Moore Bancroft, ex-'93, with her husband Milton H. Bancroft will soon sail for Europe. For the next three years they expect to live a short distance from Paris.

Several of our members attended the Friends' Conference, held at Chappaqua during the first week of August.

KAPPA.

May and Edith Haskell visited friends in Missouri this summer.

Grace Colwell visited in White Cloud and Winifred Churchill in Kansas City.

Three of our girls, Kate Riggs, Jeannette Wheeler and Lottie Robinson, enjoyed a trip to Colorado.

Mary Barkley, one of our graduates of last spring, and Edith Davis will teach this year.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God to visit affliction on our sister, Jean Christian Chandler, by removing from her her husband, and

Whereas, We desire to express our sorrow at her bereavement, be it

Resolved, That we, the members of Lambda Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta, extend our loving sympathy to those left lonely.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to her, published in the Kappa Alpha Theta and in the University Cynic.

FLORENCE J. MAY, }
ELISABETH NORTON, } Com.

EXCHANGES.

Delta Tau Delta has entered University of Nebraska with nine men.—Ex.

It is said that at the last Chi Psi convention applications for charters were received from Yale, Harvard and Stanford Universities.—Ex.

Seven fraternities have entered Ohio State University in the last three years.—Ex.

A chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha has been established at Vanderbilt University.—Ex.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon has entered Worcester Polytechnic Institute, absorbing a strong local society known as the Tech Co-operative Society.—Ex.

Trinity College is soon to have a new Natural History building, costing one hundred thousand dollars.—Ex.

The old University building on Washington Park, where the University of the City of New York has been so long situated, will be torn down next May, and a new ten-story steel building will replace it as rapidly as possible. The architecture of the new building is to have an academic aspect. It is expected that the new structure will cost between \$600,000 and \$700,000. Three of the permanent new buildings on University Heights will be ready for occupancy by next October.—*Phrenocosmian*.

S. A. E's secret publication, the *Hustler*, has resulted in performing a mission not fully intended when the paper was inaugurated. Unprincipled barbs at the Mississippi Agricultural College, at which institution a sub-rosa chapter existed, contrived to get possession of an issue containing an account of the workings of the local chapter, together with full list of members. As a result of its being deposited in the hands of an "unappreciative

faculty," the chapter was requested, in toto, to seek an education elsewhere.—*Kappa Alpha Journal*.

Every young man is a mystic, he loves the bizarre and dramatic. For this reason the initiation should not be stripped of the spectacular element, but should be made to appeal to the sentimental as well as the intellectual and moral portion of our nature. The ideal initiation should be solemn. The beautiful truths of our order should be taught in such a way as to produce a lasting impression upon the minds of the novitate. It makes the heart sick to hear the service read or poorly rendered, and the first requisite to a successful rendition of the ritual is *practice* and thorough knowledge on the part of each individual of his work. The initiate should be made to feel that he has entered upon a career demanding his highest endeavor, not an association joined together for the better enjoyment of loose pleasures. We think it safe to cast the character of a chapter by the nature of its initiation. If it be indifferent or careless there, the life blood flows weakly; if inspired with lofty ideas and marked with gentlemanly deportment the career of such a chapter can be forecast with certainty. Reading of the impressive portion of the ceremony should not be tolerated, and the utmost dignity, solemnity and respect should be observed by all. Ill treatment of a candidate is barbarous, and, to say the least, a poor return for his confidence. * * Let the initiation typify our principles, not burlesque them, and then shall the neophyte be borne to an appreciation of his fraternity ideal, an ideal which may be taken as a limit to his life's ambition or endeavor.—*Phi Gamma Delta Quarterly*.

Quite a ripple of excitement was occasioned upon the surface of the hitherto comparatively placid surface of the fraternity sea at the University of North Carolina during the latter part of the term just passed. The Barbarian herd was thoroughly organized and very aggressive and maintained, from the first of March till the close of the session, a weekly partisan paper, known as *White and*

Blue. A petition was presented at the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees, praying for total and eternal abolition of all chapters represented. A special committee was deputed to act, and after granting an audience to representatives of both factions, determined upon a compromise to the effect that the initiation of Freshman be in future prohibited. It will be seen that this decision is virtually a decided victory for the existing system, as such legislation not only does not detract from any former power, but is calculated to increase the possibility of an actual fraternal feature in that requisite time for judging congenial characteristics is guaranteed.—Ex.

Tau Kappa Phi, an erstwhile North-Western local, after persistent and emphatic rebuffs, has finally abandoned hope of gaining admission to their long sought goal, Delta Kappa Epsilon and disbanded. In consequence of said collapse, a most exciting scramble has been participated in by the various fraternities there represented over its "mutilated remains." To augment the general state of hilarity Phi Kappa Psi's local representative "bounced" a couple of its number and suffered the loss of an additional four through resignation. It would seem that the general mode of conducting affairs fraternal at "Old North-Western" was a trifle picturesque, as the instance of Delta Upsilon's ejecting a quota of its membership on account of indulging matrimonial proclivities, is yet green in the minds of readers of the Greek press.—Ex.

Anchora prints a very bright and amusing "toast," so blood curdling and delightfully shivery that you must read the last two or three verses, if only to see how fierce an erstwhile toasted freshman can be, when her turn comes to torture :

The maid read the lines o'er and o'er,
And her chuckles grew into a roar.
Revenge seemed so sweet
Her joy was complete,
As she rolled in pure mirth on the floor.

"The baby!" she shrieked in delight,
 "The infant—the atom—the mite!"
 "The wee olive twig!"
 Then she danced a wild jig,
 For "olive twig" struck her just right.
 "I'll toast her as they toasted me!"
 She howled with true cannibal glee.
 The time's come to act—
 Now she toasts her in fact,
 So here's to our little Beth B.

ELIZABETH NORRIS, '98, (*Lambda*.)

The following review of the publications of the Sororities we take from the Kappa Alpha Journal:

After a year's dereliction of duty the writer returns in an emergency, at the bidding of his superior, to again read and write of the Greek press. After such an absence it is like returning to the scenes of one's youth, and while the lines "How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood" go running through the mind, again the lips are cooled at the rim of the old oaken bucket with its iron bands and cover of moss. But however old these subjects be they are not classical, and with the Greek press only Hellenic—classically Hellenic—subjects are permissible, so to the Greek press in review.

The reviewer should carefully prepare his toilet before starting his work, for it looks like going to a ball when he encounters first *Anchora*, *Kappa Alpha Theta*, *The Trident*, *The Arrow*, and *The Key*, all in evening dress. Of the five perhaps *Anchora* is more strongly handled. If an attempt were made to compare these five papers to the characters one would meet at the ball, *Anchora* would surely be compared to a woman of a healthy mind, who has traveled a good deal and seen something of the world, and has returned home just a little tired with the mockeries of life. She has seen it in all stages, knows what is good, bad, and indifferent, and is weary that the good does not predominate. She has an idea that the game is not worth the candle. Among other things which contribute to this weariness in *Anchora* is the song book question,

which is editorially treated with vehemence. The following excerpts besides being entertaining to read might be of particular interest to Kappa Alphas :

“ There are a few subjects which the editor is ashamed to mention in *Anchora*—on account of their age and decrepitude. They are topics that have passed through a long and checkered career. In the days of our predecessor (can any surviving Delta Gamma recall those distant and halcyon days?) they may have been vigorous and respectable young subjects for discussion, but long ere the present incumbent sank into the editorial chair, never to rise again, they had lost whatever grace and gentility they may once have possessed, and when their spectral forms occasionally appear before us and demand recognition from the fraternity, we feel that it is hardly decent to present such forlorn and disreputable connections to the younger generation that is striving to believe that Delta Gamma has never been anything but great and glorious. Thus it is with extreme reluctance that we introduce again these unwelcome topics ; we wish that they would lie quietly in the grave of oblivion, but they will not. For like the spirits of the departed who have met with violent deaths, and haunt the scenes of their earthly sojourn until their crumbling bones have been honored with the proper ceremonial rites of burial, the Song Book of Delta Gamma refuses to be forgotten, and will not retire into obscurity until the proper obsequies have been performed. The proper obsequies in this case are composition, compilation, publication and distribution. After these rites have been performed, we have no doubt that the song book will sink into well-merited oblivion, and thereafter conduct itself like any other well-regulated ghost. Such will certainly be the case if the present collection of songs is printed, and the fraternity will never think of them but as a source of humiliation. . . . It is hard to believe that in this day when the trick of rhyming has become so universal and fashionable, that any chapter of Delta Gamma could not, if she would, find at least one girl who is able to write a few bright and appropriate verses for the song book. As a matter of fact, have not all the chapters songs composed by their members, which they are accustomed to sing among themselves? Send those to the Grand Chapter before you read the next editorial. If the chapters really have no acceptable songs on hand, appoint all the girls who are engaged to write them before Commencement. Emerson says that people who have never before been known to write a line of poetry, often produce very creditable verses under the influence of love. This is no flippant suggestion ; the time

for desperate action has arrived, and the engaged girls may have it in their power to be the salvation of the fraternity song book. It rests with the chapters to make them feel their responsibility. The subject has been disregarded too long."

Where is the Kappa Alpha song book? Cannot some of the "engaged" brethren supply the missing muse?

Kappa Alpha Theta has not traveled much, but she is "up" on all the news of the day and everything that pertains to "our set." She is the prettily gowned young lady with whom you have a lot of conventional light talk, and after a few whirls in "the mazy" you take her to her seat, talk of the nice music, lovely ices, and the latest gossip, and are supplanted by another conventional young man who has the same experience. *Kappa Alpha Theta* is not a mannish girl, and, true to her sex, she makes "A plea for non-secrecy." That is the subject of the leading article in the current number of that magazine, and the men exchange glances, winks and nods. There's no use taking issue on these points. Argument does not count. The writer says, "The greatest objection to secrecy is its uselessness," etc..

The Arrow is the Woman one meets at the ball and after leaving puzzles over her. She is such a combination that you hardly know where to place her. The general idea received, however, is that she is just such a girl as will readily receive and cultivate advanced notions and while she is not yet a pronounced dress-reformer or woman suffragist, still she has a pair of bloomers at home which she daily tries on in order to become accustomed to them by the day when women will "strike for freedom." *The Arrow* will readily be recognized as on the border line between the "meek, submissive, mild," and the self-assertive liberator of her sex. If she were a man it would be said that she was "on the fence," and if one was speaking of a political platform her utterances would be called "a straddler." But *The Arrow* is well managed. In its news department are accounts of the doings of the strongest women of the age—those who have become doctors, lawyers, educators,

etc., all put in such a manner as to incite similar effort on the part of the members of Pi Beta Phi ; while the editorial columns are as free from any such intimation as would be the pages of the Greek press. An excellent photo-engraving of Bessie Evans Peery, M. D., is presented for a frontispiece, and under the head of "Some Women we Want to Know," appears a short complimentary biographical sketch of Miss Peery, always referred to as "Dr. Peery."

Mr. W. D. Howell's utterances in regard to the political equality of men and women, wherein he refers to the woman suffrage as "one of the great possibilities of the future" are quoted entire under the head "Of Interest to All Women," and the *Century's* summary of the new woman suffrage movement is also quoted. It doesn't take a weather vane to tell which way the wind blows.

Fraternity journalism has changed much in the last decade, and the old-time conservatism is giving way to the methods of the present style of daily and weekly journalism. Many fraternity magazines are becoming broader and more liberal in their scope, and those that are best, to our mind, are giving more attention to fraternity and college matters in general, and nearly all now contain illustrations where few would be found years ago. The subject of illustration is a serious one with the fraternity editor where the subject of cost comes in. Do the results warrant the outlay of money that good illustrating demands, and does it make the magazine of more value to the readers? To us it seems that no amount of word painting of chapters and individuals can bring the members into a close relationship and knowledge of each other as a few illustrations. From the reproduction of photographs of chapters and colleges and the men prominent in fraternity work more can be learned of the character of the individuals and institutions than from wordy chapter letters and long-drawn-out histories. We hope that the increased support of the magazine will

warrant us in doing still more work in illustrating than we have done in the past.—*Ex.*

Since a certain famous preacher sometimes makes quotations in his sermons from the immortal adventures of the Peterkin family, perhaps we may be pardoned for doing the same thing. On the great occasion when Solomon John Peterkin decided to write a book, one of the family remarks that nut galls and vinegar are said to make very good ink. The ink is made, he dips his pen therein, and while the family stand about in breathless expectancy, he solemnly announces that he has nothing to say. Into the same acrid fluid the editor of "*The Rainbow*" of Delta Tau Delta dips his pen, but he finds a positive wealth of disparagement to pour out upon the other Magazines. For fear of being misunderstood, it may be well to say that he does not mention the *Shield*. They fall under his condemnation as being each "of interest to its own fraternity and to no one else." He graciously approves of the *Key* of Kappa Kappa Gamma, but "all the others, with the exception of a stray article here and there, are written in a bald, mechanical style, the same expressions and phrases are used over and over again in all; they are mostly on the same subjects, and on the whole the effect is monotonous when one reads a number of them, one after another." Certain verses are said to "remind one of an old backwoods preacher wheezing out in nasal tones each verse of the hymn to be sung." The chapter letters of another magazine are characterized as "very bad," and he adds that "a good course of Milton's prose would do every letter writer of them good."

It would be unfair to intimate that this criticism is actuated by anything but a desire for the literary reformation of fraternity journalism. Therefore, it may be hoped that he will receive in the spirit of meekness which he has given others so good an opportunity to exercise, the suggestion that a few hours study of a good handbook of synonyms might relieve him from the painful necessity of using the word "bald" three times in the course of four paragraphs.

From so much criticism one would be warranted in expecting to find words of lofty eloquence or profound wisdom in the other pages of the magazine. But it would seem that in a degree, at least, the dire disaster which attended Solomon John Peterkin's attempt to enlighten the world had overtaken editor and contributor alike. Still, from the mediocrity of which the editor complains so bitterly when found in the pages of other journals we rescue two brilliant gems, the first of which is given without comment.

Welcome, Beta Tau; welcome Beta Upsilon! Brethren, ye that have ears to hear, listen to the voice from Nebraska and Illinois! It is not a cry from the wilderness, but from a hot-bed of civilization and culture; from a region where has been raised a new altar, and where a new divinity reigns. Nebraska and Illinois both have found the golden basket pendant from the heavenly bow. A new covenant has been formed; a new era begun. Verily the children of the *Rainbow* are fast increasing. But let them come, even as twins.—*The Shield*.

"In view of the careless indifference of our Chapter correspondents, we respectfully ask the senior class of the respective colleges to investigate this subject and assume a personal responsibility in the matter. You will greatly oblige the Council and the editorial management if you will take steps at the beginning of the fall term to have some intelligent, rational being elected to the office of Correspondent. He need not be versed in history, nor dyed in literary lore, nor skilled in epistolary versatility. Even spelling, which the great mass of correspondents absolutely ignore, we do not insist upon; our proof-readers are intelligent and patient. With a few bare facts we can manufacture a very passable letter, but we do hesitate to manufacture those facts. Choose, then, a man who knows a fact or two, and see that he sends them; no matter if his chirography resembles the figures limned by an Aztec warrior upon his anatomy in the hour of polemic disturbances. Select, then, some fairly rational creature. Let him write with a pencil, if he will, and carry his MS. a week

in his pocket, till the pages resemble a cartoon of the French impressionist school, we will not cavil. Only let him write a Chapter letter, even though all he says be an excuse for his poor pen and thin ink. He may develop, and some day he may actually write a letter that contains an idea. In your investigation of the question you may chance to find a man now and then who knows how to write a letter. Let not the discovery startle you. Such men there must be, and it is a great thought to realize that some day you may find one. We, the editors, will have more joy over one Deke that writeth than over those that kick sundry and divers goals in the autumn tournaments."—*A. K. E. Quarterly.*

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